

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 26-37 were pending in the above-captioned patent application prior to this amendment. Claims 2-25 were canceled previously. Claims 27 and 32 are canceled herein. Claims 1 and 26 are amended herein. Thus, after this amendment, claims 1, 26, 28-31, and 33-37 are pending in the application.

The examiner objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) as not showing the additional expansion zipper and the internal stiffening member which the examiner contends is recited in claims 27 and 32. Claims 27 and 32 are canceled herein thereby overcoming this objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

The examiner refused to accept the declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.131 and pointed out several supposed deficiencies. The examiner states at the top of Page 3 of the October 29, 2008 Office Action that “[i]n response to this office action, applicant is required to point out exactly what limitations in each of the claims are covered by the evidence shown in the declaration under 37 CFR 1.131 and detailing the corresponding support in the evidence.” The examiner goes on to state, “[a]pplicant is also need to correct said paragraphs 3, 5-6 to provide the correct information detailing certain claims are being invention with two separate priorities covering two separate embodiments and what features are covered by the evidence.” A new declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.131 is submitted herewith to address the examiner’s concerns. The declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.131 relates to the patentability of claim 1 and claim charts are provided in the declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.131 showing where in the Exhibit documents support for the claim 1 language can be found. Once an independent claim is determined to be patentable, all claims dependent thereon are also patentable absent any formalities problems such as, for example, antecedent basis or typographical errors. However, the examiner’s comment that the wheel structure is not supported by the presented evidence is not correct. Page 3 of Exhibit A of the Declaration shows the “Corner Wheels.” As to the examiner’s confusion as to the priority date being relied upon in the declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.131, please note that it is the conception date of the invention as evidenced by Exhibit A of the declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.131 being prior to the filing date of the Hsieh reference that is relied upon to “swear

behind" the Hsieh reference. Exhibit B is provided to show a diligent reduction to practice of the invention after conception. The fact that conception occurred prior to Hsieh's filing date and the fact that there was diligent reduction to practice thereafter is all that is needed to remove Hsieh as a reference.

Further with regard to the examiner's comments regarding the present application having priority claims to two different applications, Applicant is relying only on British Patent Application No. 0324487.8, (i.e., the priority application having the earlier of the two priority dates) for its effect as a constructive reduction to practice of the invention which, coupled with the conception date prior to the filing date of the Hsieh reference, antedates the Hsieh reference. The priority application being relied upon by Applicant has digital photos as some of its Figures of an actual reduction to practice of the invention claimed in claim 1 of the present application. However, certain recitations in claim 1 cannot be seen in those digital photos, but can be seen in other Figures, which is why British Patent Application No. 0324487.8 is being relied upon as a constructive reduction to practice, not an actual reduction to practice. Because the examiner has specifically requested a new declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.131, the undersigned trusts that there will be no problem with its entry into the record at this stage of prosecution.

The examiner rejected claims 1 and 26-37 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Specifically, the examiner states, “[t]he claim set forth the limitations that there is no internal/external perimeter framing and reinforcing side, base and back panels” and then the examiner notes, “. . . that there are supporting panels 25, and 18 that are required to support the luggage wheels and handles.” Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the lid and base forming sections “are both shape wise maintaining in the absence of any internal/external perimeter framing around the entire periphery of the lid and base forming sections and are shape wise maintaining in the absence of any reinforcing side, base and back panels so that the soft suitcase is not of box construction” With regard to the term “box construction,” it is a term of art in the luggage industry and is intended to have the meaning discussed in the paragraph at page 4, lines 3-8 of the application as filed. The elements 18 and 25 shown in the Figures of the present application are not reinforcing boards of the type that would lead one skilled in the art to consider the claimed suitcase of the box construction type. Accordingly, now that claim 1 has

been clarified, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite is respectfully requested. Of course, since claims 27 and 32 have been canceled herein, the indefiniteness rejection of those claims is rendered moot.

The examiner rejected claims 1, 26, 31, 32 and 34-37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nykoluk (U.S. Pat. No. 6,062,356) in view of Lee (U.S. Pat. No. 5,284,542) or Chang (U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 20040101669). The examiner states that “Nykoluk ‘874 meets all claimed limitations except for the material being molded foamed plastic” and that “[i]t would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to make the case from foamed plastic material as taught by Lee or Chang to provide the desired material for the case.” The undersigned respectfully disagrees with the examiner’s statement that “Nykoluk ‘874 meets all claimed limitations except for the material being molded foamed plastic.” Nykoluk teaches and discloses a **framed** case of the type that is explicitly excluded by the plain language of claim 1. The very first sentence of Nykoluk states, at col. 1, lines 7 and 8, that Nykoluk’s “... invention pertains generally to bags and, more particularly, to **framed** cases with feet.” Nykoluk teaches, at col. 2, lines 30-32, “[a]n internal frame 33 made from a substantially rigid material such as plastic **extends around outer periphery** 26 to provide support for body 17.” In contrast, claim 1 has been clarified to state that “both the lid and base forming sections are moulded as one-piece tray like forms and are both shape wise maintaining such that **the soft suitcase has no internal/external perimeter framing around the entire periphery of the lid and base forming sections . . .**” (Emphasis added)

Furthermore, Nykoluk teaches the following at col. 2, lines 29-41:

An internal frame member or frame 33 made from a substantially rigid material such as plastic extends around outer periphery 26 to provide support for body 17. **Frame 33, a portion of which is shown in FIG. 7, has the shape of an endless rectangular member and is formed from four strip portions or planar strips 34 extending respectively through the four walls 21-24 of outer periphery 26 at right angles to each other.** Frame 33 has a squared forward edge 35 and a constant thickness and a constant width. A flexible web means in the form of outer layer or cover 36 extends around body 17. Cover 36 is made from any suitable

durable material such as ballistic nylon and has at least one rolled seam 37 therein. (Emphasis added)

It is quite clear, therefore, that Nykoluk's suitcase is of the "box construction" type that is explicitly excluded from being within the scope of claim 1 of the present application.

The examiner relies on Lee and Chang in the alternative as teaching foamed plastics material. However, neither Lee nor Chang teach a soft suitcase in which "**both** the lid and base forming sections are **moulded as one-piece tray like forms**" which "comprise foamed plastics material" as recited in claim 1 of the present application. Lee teaches that only his cover (the portion of Lee that would arguably correspond to the recited "lid forming section" of claim1) is made of foamed plastics material. Lee is silent as to the construction of Lee's base section and Lee doesn't even have a reference numeral corresponding to Lee's base section. Thus, Lee does not teach the construction of both the lid and base forming sections of a soft suitcase from the same process. Chang teaches only the use of a flat board, not a tray like form, as the cover or lid of the suitcase shown in Fig. 1. Thus, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Nykoluk in combination with Lee or Chang. For at least these reasons, claim 1 along with claims 26, 28-31, and 33-37 that depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

The examiner rejected claims 1, 26, 29, 30, 31, 32, 34 and 35 "under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hsieh (U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2005/0056511) in view of Nykoluk (U.S. Pat. No. 6,062,356), and further in view of Lee (U.S. Pat. No. 5,284,542). Submitted herewith is a Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 to antedate or swear behind the Hsieh reference. See the discussion above regarding how this new Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 has overcome the examiner's concerns. The fact of the matter is that the inventor of the present application conceived the subject matter recited in claim 1 of the present application, prior to the September 16, 2003 filing date of Hsieh and the invention was constructively reduced the invention to practice diligently via the filing of British Patent Application No. 0324487.8 on October 21, 2003. This inventive activity took place in a WTO member country and therefore, 35 U.S.C. § 104 is applicable. Accordingly, because Hsieh cannot be used as a reference to reject the present application and because claim 1 distinguishes over the Nykoluk

and Lee references (i.e., the other two references being combined with Hsieh to reject claim 1 in this particular obviousness rejection) as discussed above, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 26, 29, 30, 31, 32, 34 and 35 based on the combination of Hsieh, Nykoluk, and Lee is respectfully requested. Of course, claim 32 has been canceled and so the rejection of that claim based on the combination of Hsieh, Nykoluk, and Lee is rendered moot.

The examiner rejected claims 1, 26, 29, 30, 31, 32, 34 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Him Beek (*sic*) (U.S. Des. Pat. No. D492,110) in view of either Chang or Lee and, further in view of Nykoluk. Van Himbeek is a design patent showing only the exterior of a suitcase. Accordingly, there is no teaching in Van Himbeek of a soft suitcase having “both the lid and base forming sections . . . moulded as one-piece tray like forms” that “are both shape wise maintaining such that the soft suitcase has no internal/external perimeter framing around the entire periphery of the lid and base forming sections and has no reinforcing side, base and back panels so that the soft suitcase is not of box construction . . .” as recited in claim 1 of the present application. The deficiencies of Nykoluk, Chang and Lee are discussed above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 26, 29, 30, 31, 32, 34 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Himbeek in view of Chang or Lee and, further in view of Nykoluk is respectfully requested. Of course, since claim 32 has been canceled herein, the rejection of that claim based on the combination of Van Himbeek, Lee or Chang, and Nykoluk is rendered moot.

The examiner made several rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in paragraphs 5-7 of the October 29, 2008 Office Action to reject dependent claims 27 and 33 (paragraph 5), claim 28 (paragraph 6), and claim 36 (paragraph 7). The examiner also made several rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in paragraphs 9-11 of the October 29, 2008 Office Action to reject dependent claims 27 and 33 (paragraph 9), claim 28 (paragraph 10), and claims 36 and 37 (paragraph 11). Finally, the examiner made several rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in paragraphs 13-15 of the October 29, 2008 Office Action to reject dependent claims 27 and 33 (paragraph 13), claim 28 (paragraph 14), and claims 36 and 37 (paragraph 15). However, because claim 1 of the present application is in condition for allowance as discussed above, these various rejections of

dependent claims 27, 28, 33, 36 and 37 are rendered moot. Of course, claim 27 has been canceled herein as noted multiple times already.

Based on the foregoing, claim 1 along with dependent claims 26, 28-31, and 33-37 are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. The amendment to claim 26 made herein was simply to change "Zip" to "zip" for one of the occurrences in claim 26 that was inadvertently missed when responding to the previous Office Action. Also, paragraph 17 of the October 29, 2008 Office Action seems to have stock language pertaining to final Office Actions as it discusses receipt of an Advisory Action if a response is filed within two months of the Office Action date. However, the Office Action of October 29, 2008 was not a final Office Action as is noted on the Office Action Summary sheet. Because of the RCE filed electronically August 29, 2008, the October 29, 2008 Office Action should properly be a non-final Office Action.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response and that shortages in fees, if any, be charged to the Account of Barnes & Thornburg, Deposit Account No. 10-0435, with reference to our file 38566-79926.

Respectfully submitted,
BARNES & THORNBURG LLP



Ronald S. Henderson
Attorney Reg. No. 43669

Indianapolis, Indiana
317-231-7341

EXHIBIT A

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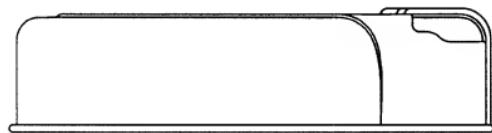
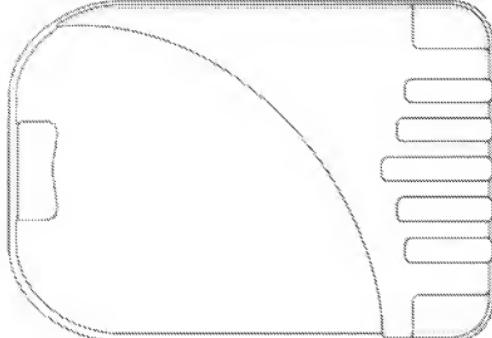
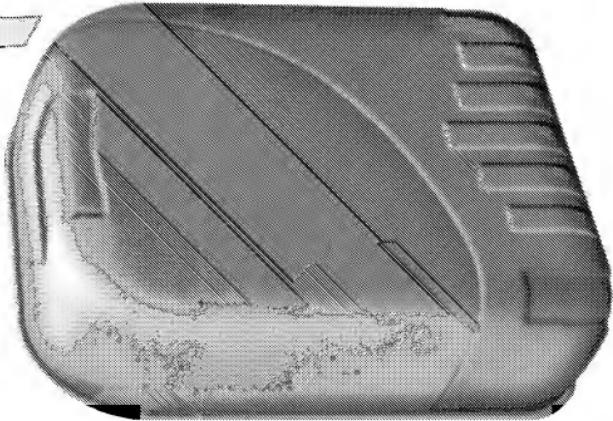
THE JOURNAL OF CLIMATE

THE INFLUENCE OF CULTURE ON LANGUAGE LEARNING 11

BIOLOGICAL AGENTS AND THEIR USE IN PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT

1. *ANALYSIS OF THE INFLUENCE OF THE CULTIVATION PRACTICES ON THE QUALITY OF THE CULTIVATED LAND*

"U"-SHAPED METAL FRAME UNDER
TOP PANEL (UNDER LINING)



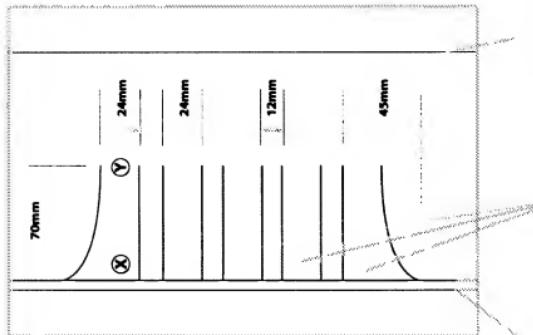
Revised: 06/06/06
Description: Piping for all four corner sections per panel

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**Extra molded features
(on all four corners)-
See detail**

REVISIONS FOLLOWING SAMPLE

Detail showing view from
directly above corner of panel



Piping

Back of panel

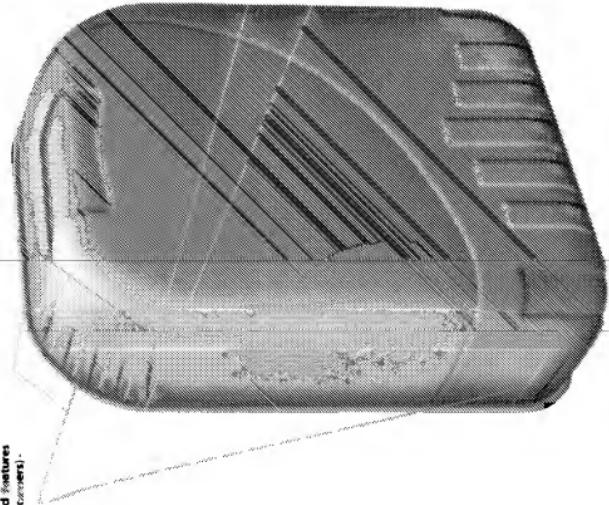
Raised areas -
five on each corner

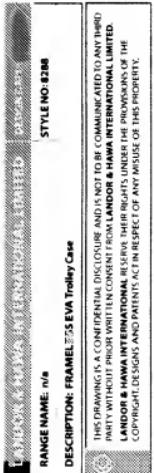
Raised area to be embossed by 5mm at point X

Raised area to be level with main moulding at point Y

* ADDITIONAL MOULDINGS TO BE APPLIED
TO ALL FOUR CORNERS OF PANEL

* DIMENSIONS SHOWN ARE FOR 30° CASE (AS
PER SAMPLE), SCALE TO FIT OTHER SIZES





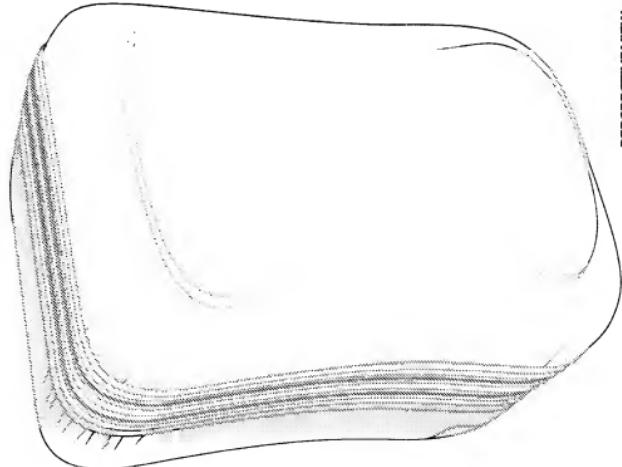
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104

STYLE NO: 8288

DESCRIPTION: FRAMEL TS EVA Trolley Case

THIS DRAWING IS A CONFIDENTIAL DISCLOSURE AND IS NOT TO BE COMMUNICATED TO ANY THIRD PARTY WITHOUT PRIOR WRITTEN CONSENT FROM LANDOR & HAWA INTERNATIONAL LIMITED.



PERSPECTIVE VIEW



EXHIBIT B



PRIORITY DOCUMENT

SUBMITTED OR TRANSMITTED IN
COMPLIANCE WITH RULE 17.1(a) (OR (b))

The Patent Office
Concept House
Cardiff Road
Newport

South Wales
NP10 8QQ

REC'D 03 DEC 2004

[WIPO]

PCT

I, the undersigned, being an officer duly authorised in accordance with Section 74(1) and (4) of the Deregulation & Contracting Out Act 1994, to sign and issue certificates on behalf of the Comptroller-General, hereby certify that annexed hereto is a true copy of the documents as originally filed in connection with the patent application identified therein.

In accordance with the Patents (Companies Re-registration) Rules 1982, if a company named in this certificate and any accompanying documents has re-registered under the Companies Act 1980 with the same name as that with which it was registered immediately before re-registration save for the substitution as, or inclusion as, the last part of the name of the words "public limited company" or their equivalents in Welsh, references to the name of the company in this certificate and any accompanying documents shall be treated as references to the name with which it is so re-registered.

In accordance with the rules, the words "public limited company" may be replaced by p.l.c., plc, P.L.C. or PLC.

Re-registration under the Companies Act does not constitute a new legal entity but merely subjects the company to certain additional company law rules.

Signed 

Dated 26 October 2004



THE PATENT OFFICE
Patent
Office

21 OCT 2003

NEWPORT

Request for grant of a patent

(See the notes on the back of this form. You can also get an explanatory leaflet from the Patent Office to help you fill in this form.)

21 OCT 2003
210CT03 EB44015-1 D01682
P01/7700 0.00-0324487.8

The Patent Office

Cardiff Road
Newport
Gwent NP9 1RU

21 OCT 2003

1. Your reference

Landor Soft case

2. Patent application number

(The Patent Office will fill in this part)

0324487.8

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (underline all surnames)Landor & Hawa International Limited,
Riverside House,
River Way,
Harlow,
Essex
CM20 2DW

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

British Body Corporate

8662361001

4. Title of the invention

SUITCASE

5. Name of your agent (if you have one)

Patrick Russell-Rayner,
Business Centre West,
Avenue One,
Business Park,
Letchworth Garden City,
Hertfordshire
SG6 2HB

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (including the postcode)

4692001

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (if you know it) the or each application number

Country Priority application number
(if you know it) Date of filing
(day / month / year)

7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application

Number of earlier application Date of filing
(day / month / year)

8. Is a statement of Inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (Answer 'Yes' or 'No')

Yes

- a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
 - b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or
 - c) any named applicant is a corporate body.
- See note (d))

Patents Form 1/77

9. Enter the number of sheets for any of the following items you are filing with this form.
Do not count copies of the same document

Continuation sheets of this form	NONE
Description	SEVEN
Claim(s)	NONE
Abstract	NONE
Drawing(s)	FIVE + 5 SN

10. If you are also filing any of the following, state how many against each item.

Priority documents

Translations of priority documents

Statement of Inventorship and right to grant of a patent (*Patents Form 7/77*)

Request for preliminary examination and search (*Patents Form 9/77*)

Request for substantive examination
(*Patents Form 10/77*)

Any other documents
(please specify)

11.

I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature

Date

P. Russell-Rayner 25/10/2007

Pat Russell-Rayner 01462 672538

Warning

After an application for a patent has been filed, the Comptroller of the Patent Office will consider whether publication or communication of the invention should be prohibited or restricted under Section 22 of the Patents Act 1977. You will be informed if it is necessary to prohibit or restrict your invention in this way. Furthermore, if you live in the United Kingdom, Section 23 of the Patents Act 1977 stops you from applying for a patent abroad without first getting written permission from the Patent Office unless an application has been filed at least 6 weeks beforehand in the United Kingdom for a patent for the same invention and either no direction prohibiting publication or communication has been given, or any such direction has been revoked.

SUITCASE

This invention relates to the construction of luggage such as suitcases and/or trolley cases for use by travellers.

Such cases, can conveniently be considered as comprising two major types, the
5 first the so-called soft case and the second the so-called hard or non-soft case.

Many constructions of such cases for use by travellers are known. These known constructions of both 'hard' and 'soft' cases are of varied form and not infrequently include carrying handle arrangements and at least a pair of wheels/rolls for facilitating the movement of the case by a user.

10 In addition, it is also known to provide cases incorporating a towing handle structure which is usually moveable between a user case towing position and a retracted stowage position.

The above mentioned 'hard' cases are regarded as being hard in the sense that the walls, top and bottom cannot be pierced by a blade or needle as is possible with
15 soft case constructions.

Conventionally the so-called 'hard' cases incorporate a metal or plastics framework extending all round the internal perimeter of the case in such position as to provide structural strength to the case. Such frameworks can involve internal tongue and groove arrangements. In practice, in addition to such a
20 framework known cases incorporate reinforcements at the top, base and corner sections. Such reinforcements can be formed from plywood, or P. E. Board

The 'soft' case conventionally incorporates an internal framework of metal or appropriate plastics material extending around the total periphery of the associated case top and base/bottom sections which provides the means whereby
25 the visual appearance of the case is obtained and also serves to support a

soft outer covering. In addition, plywood or plastics material such as P. E. board re-enforcement at the case top, base, and corner sections may be incorporated.

Whilst the provision of an internal framework is a standard/common feature of
5 'soft' case construction it is known to avoid using the framework extending
around the internal periphery of a 'soft' case and to provide instead plastics
material i.e., P. E. side panels together with P. E. material base and back panels.
These particular cases have become known as 'Box' construction or side panel
cases.

- 10 It is an object of the invention to eliminate such frames and the need for such
re-enforcement arrangements

Broadly, according to a first aspect of the invention there is provided a 'soft' case
including lid and base forming sections of such construction as to be shape wise
self supporting in the absence of a perimeter frame side, base or back panels..

- 15 Broadly, according to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a 'soft'
case including lid and base forming sections of such moulded construction as to
be shape wise self supporting in the absence of a perimeter frame side, base or
back panels.

- 20 Preferably, also the construction of the 'soft' case eliminates the use of corner
supports and/or side panel forming boards.

According to a further aspect of the invention a case construction incorporates a moulded lid forming section, a moulded base forming section with both said sections being moulded from a foamed plastics material such that the sections incorporate corrugations/recesses so positioned as to enhance rigidity of the mouldings.

5 Preferably the lid and base sections are moulded from a foamed plastics material such as are known under the trade name of EVA and expanded PVC

Preferably the moulded lid and base sections are externally covered by a fabric material shaped to conform closely to the external form of the lid and base 10 sections.

Preferably the two moulded sections are connected together by a zip fastener arrangement adapted for enabling the hinging of the two sections with respect to each other and to provide opening and closing facility to the case.

For a better understanding of the invention and to show how to carry the same into effect reference will now be made to the accompanying drawings in which:-

15 Figure 1 illustrates a general oblique view of a case incorporating the concepts of the invention;

Figure 2 illustrates the form of a moulding serving as the base section of a case;

20 Figure 3 is a schematic fragmentary view illustrating details of the structure of the case incorporating the concepts of the invention; and

Figures 4 and 5 illustrate part cut away views of the case of Figures 1 to 3, and in particular the construction of a towing handle facility.

Referring now to the drawings and more particularly to Figures 1 and 2 the case shown in Figure 1 can be regarded as incorporating lid and base sections 1, 2 respectively of a tray like form moulded from a foamed plastics material known under the trade name of EVA. The sections 1 and 2 are externally covered by a fabric material shaped to conform closely to the external form of the lid and base sections.

5 The two sections are secured one to the other by a Zip fastener configuration 3 that provides a conventional Zip fastener type closure facility to the case.

As mentioned each such lid and base section is formed by moulding the sections 10 from a foamed plastics material known by the trade nomenclature (EVA/PNL/68)

To provide enhanced physical shape retaining physical strength to the surfaces of the moulded lid and base sections 1 and 2 the latter are provided with corrugations/recesses 4 at the corner regions 5 of the rims 6 of the associated section. In addition, the larger faces 7 of the mouldings are provided with a 15 number of raised/recessed regions 8 at appropriate positions as to provide a suitable degree of stiffness to the mouldings without departing unnecessarily from the 'soft' characteristics of the overall construction

Figure 2 illustrates one such arrangement of the profiling. In the Figure the aforesaid rim corner corrugations are illustrated at 8 whilst the main surface 20 corrugations/profiling are indicated at 9.

In addition to the profiling so far mentioned a further indentation 10 is formed at

with a profiled indentation 15 defining in the moulding of the base section the location of suitcase handling wheels assemblies (not shown in Figures 1 and 2).

Referring now to Figure 3 this Figure very schematically illustrates the structure of the suitcase at said other end 14 of the sections 1 and 2.

- 5 As shown the Zip fastener arrangement 3 includes a main Zip fastener 15 that includes a first zipping portion 16 connected with the lid section 1 extending substantially around the total perimeter of the lid section and a second zipping portion 17 that is effectively connected to the base section by way of a first zipping portion 18 of a secondary Zip fastener 19 having a second zipping portion 10 20 connected with and extending substantially around the total perimeter of the base section 2 between the hinging region (to be discussed herein after) of the lid and base sections.. The effective length of both the main Zip fastener is such as to allow total closure of the Zip fastener for closing the suitcase.

- 15 Piping 21 is provided in the join between the zip fastener portion 16 and the lid section 1, between the zipping portion 17 and the zipping portion 18, and between the zipping portion 20 and the base section 2.

- 20 This piping 21 is such as to provide stiffness to the operational runs of the associated Zip fasteners 15 and 19 and thus to the composite Zip fastener arrangement 3. If desired this piping can be stiffened by an internally provided wire extending lengthways of the piping.

The interior of the suitcase is provided with a lining that covers in the structural features of the case.

- 25 The function of the secondary Zip fastener is to provide for expansion of the available volume of the suitcase by providing a gusset between the main and secondary Zip fasteners.

The Figure 3 schematically illustrates handling wheel assemblies 22. These wheel assemblies are fitted into openings provided in the corners of the case at the locations defined by the above mentioned corner recesses. If desired the mounting of the wheel assemblies 22 to the base section 2 can incorporate in their 5 mounting to the base section corner pieces (not shown) that serve to stiffen the mounting of the assemblies. Furthermore if desired a bracing strip (not shown) may be provided between the two wheel assemblies to enhance lateral stiffness between the wheel assemblies.

In order to facilitate the stability of the suitcase when resting upright on the 10 ground the suitcase is provided with feet 23 at the appropriate corners of the lid section and a centrally located foot 24 on the base section as shown. As will be appreciated the arrangement of the feet prevents contact of the body of the case with the ground thereby assisting in protecting the appearance of the suitcase when in use.

- 15 This hinging region for the case is located at one of the ends of the case and comprises a strip of suitable plastics/fabric material 25. One end 26 of the material is located between the foot 24 and the material of the base section the other end (not shown) is connected internally with the lid section. The overall as will be noted the material 25 bridges the Zip fastener arrangement 3. If desired 20 the overall length of the hinge forming material can at least partially accommodate the volume expansion facility. If desired other modes of hinging could be adopted..

bottom section, the elements being secured by screws/bolts or the like 33 to the moulded base section. It will be appreciated that the provision of the towing handle facility additionally provides additional length ways strength to the overall case construction.

- 5 Conveniently, an internal plastics support 34 is provided for the a handle (not shown in the Figures) for the case. This handle as indicated is at the end of the case remote from the wheels to facilitate the handling of the case when upright. A further handle (not shown) can be conveniently provided at a longer side of the case base section. The mounting of this handle would conveniently incorporate a suitable support. Similarly an internal support 35 can be provided between the 10 bracket 32 and the material of the base section

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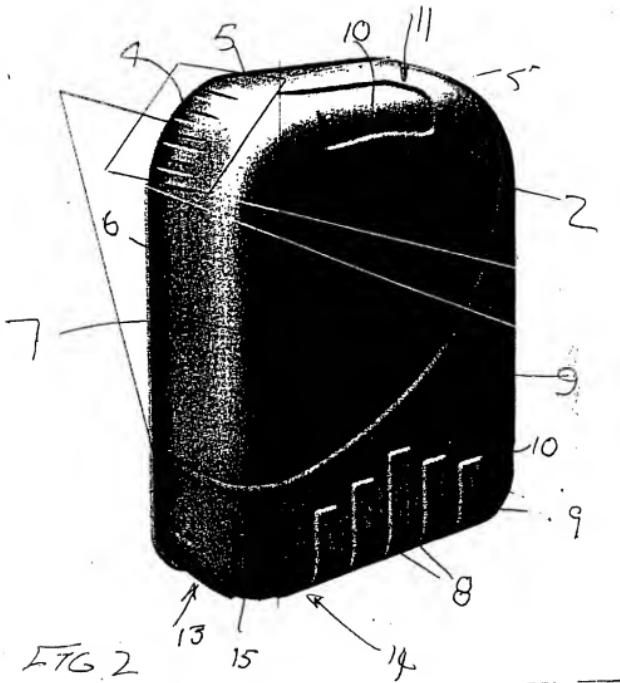
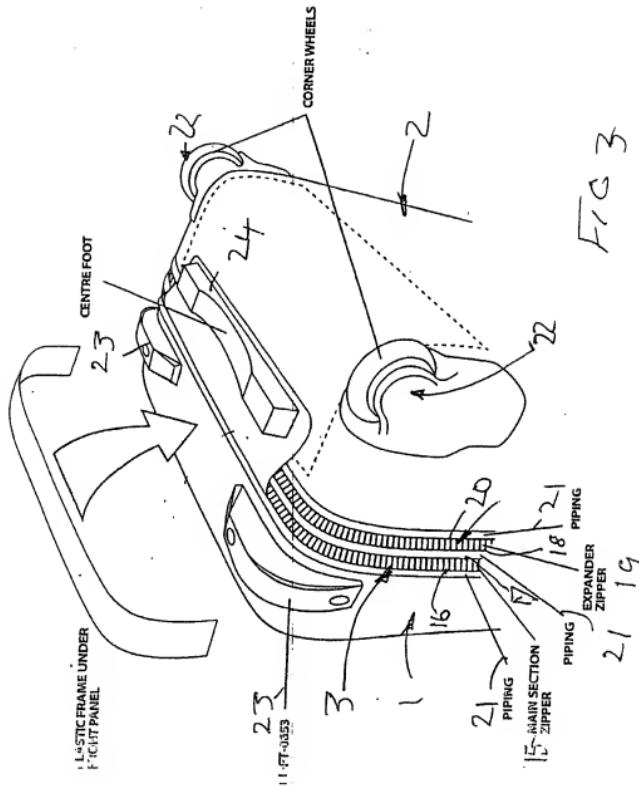
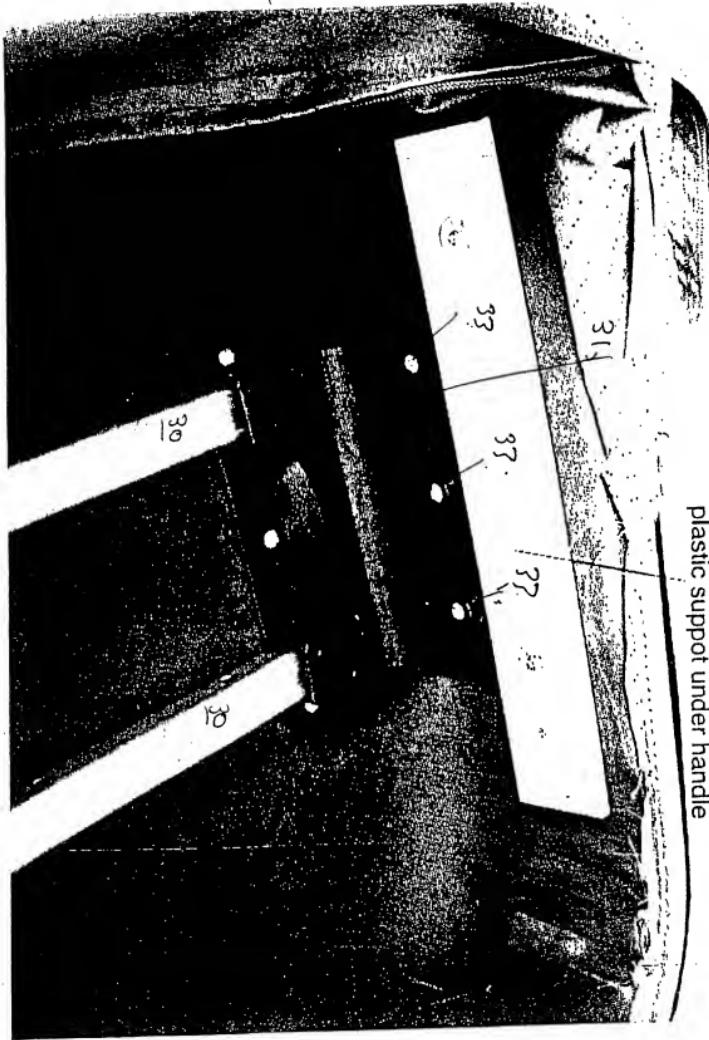


FIG. 2



4/5

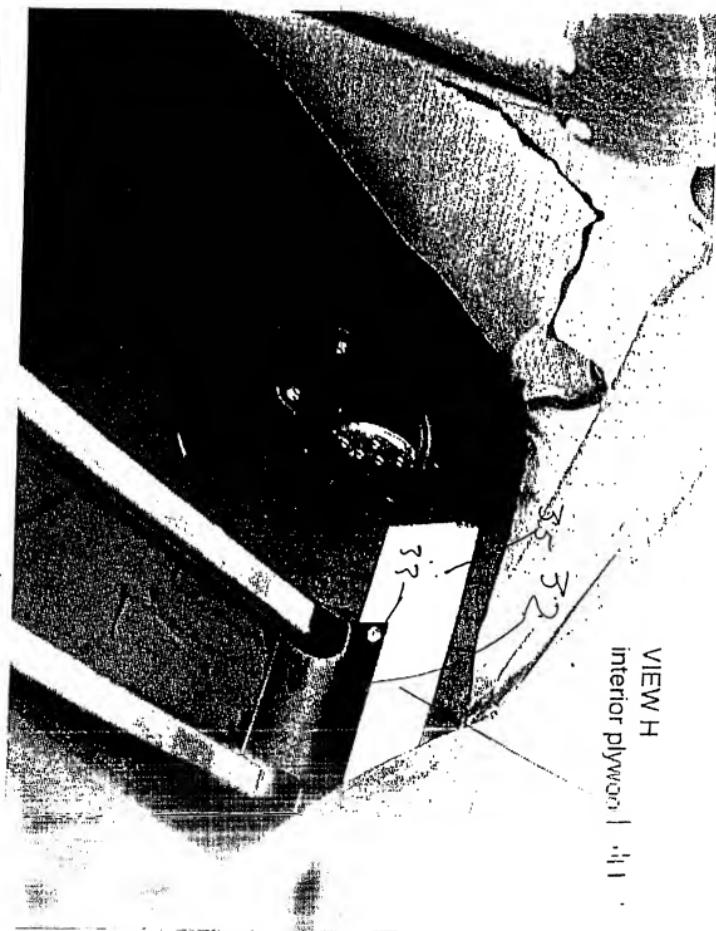
FIG 4



VIEW I
plastic support under handle

5/5

FIG 5





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A